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For Immediate Release

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**New von Trapp Family Musical to Film in Montana This Winter
-- \$8 million Production Chooses Montana for its Backdrop --**

Helena, MT – October 25, 2006 — Montana will have a starring role in the family, musical, adventure "The von Trapp Children Christmas Movie," being produced by the Durham, NC based Studio in The Woods, Inc. Exteriors for the film are set to be shot in the von Trapp's home state of Montana in December 2006 and January and February 2007.

"Montana's scenery will provide the quintessential 'set'. We are extremely pleased that the producers as well as the von Trapp family have chosen Montana for this exciting project" stated Governor Brian Schweitzer.

The film's director, Dan Curry, a multi-EMMY award winner, agrees with the Governor's sentiment regarding Montana's stunning landscapes and is eager to see the beauty of the state translate to the big screen.

John Demers, the creative mind behind the movie and one of the Executive Producers of the film scheduled for release during the Christmas season 2007, noted that they are committed to live up to the standards of the 1960's film inspired by the von Trapp children's great grandparents, the Captain and Maria von Trapp, made famous in "The Sound of Music."

One manner in which they are intending to do this is by bringing on board Jay Chattaway. Chattaway is a multiple original score, EMMY and ASCAP award winner and long time composer of original film soundtracks. Chattaway is writing original songs for the movie and is working with the von Trapp children, Sophia, Melanie, Amanda and Justin, to perform his compositions on the big screen. "Bringing in Jay will add heart-warming and original Christmas tunes to the movie, and they're sure to become classics," says Demers.

The film is budgeted close to \$8 million, approximately half of which will be spent while in Montana. "A production of this size will make a considerable economic impact in the communities where filming will take place" said Commerce Director Tony Preite. "The fiscal benefits coupled with the opportunity to feature Montana to a worldwide audience emphasizes the importance of attracting film projects of this caliber to the state."

The newly implemented "Big Sky on the Big Screen Act," helps in marketing the state to film producers such as Demers. The tax incentive package is designed to encourage film production in Montana. The measure gives production companies a 12 percent incentive rebate on all Montana labor hired for film production and an eight percent rebate on all production-related Montana expenditures.

The Montana Film Office is a part of the Department of Commerce and promotes filming in Montana as a means of economic development. In 2005, Montana's film industry generated \$5.2 million in film production spending within the state. Film production created 91 full-time equivalent jobs in the film industry and 43 full-time equivalent jobs in the general economy. In addition, the film industry contributed \$416,000 of tax revenue to the state.

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